Senior Primary Teachers
2012

Mrs Jennifer Graham  
5/6A Class Teacher  
Area Co-ordinator

Mr Andrew Altube  
5/6B Class Teacher

Mrs Rhonda Smith  
Area Teacher Assistant

If at any time you need to speak with your class teacher or the area co-ordinator please ring and make an appointment.
Language

Each term the children will be given a 'Writers Workshop' project to complete by terms end. These projects form part of their class work as well as their homework and cover many English concepts. The children will also have formal lesson's covering; Spelling, Grammar, comprehension and different writing texts. Handwriting is also an important component of our language studies and the children are expected to keep neat and tidy work books and present projects at a high standard. It is expected that each child will have a novel which is to be read during silent reading times, which is allocated 20mins every day. It is also expected that the children will be encouraged to maintain a reading program at home.

Mathematics

The mathematics we cover in Senior Primary has been planned to cover and revise all maths concepts that the children will need to enter into High school with a good grounding and knowledge. Each week they will complete two rounds of table challenges, and three sessions of mental maths. We will also be revising and teaching three or four mathematical concepts covering either; number, measurement, chance and data, Space and working mathematically. The children will also receive a weekly mathematics Homework sheet to complete at home. Mathematics homework will start in the middle of term one.
Integrated Studies

This year we will be covering four Integrated Topics.

- Leadership and Our Responsibilities in our school Community (Civics)
- Australians at War (Incorporating Remembrance Day (History)
- Rocks and Minerals. The formation of Earth (Geography)
- Why Bank it? Understanding banking and our financial responsibilities (Economics)

The children will be allocated class time to work on their integrated projects, but will also be expected to complete work at home as part of their homework commitment. All completed work to be handed to the teacher will be expected to be at a high standard and work not meeting these standards will need to be re-submitted. Integrated covers areas that will allow the children to engage themselves in the work they are researching. Explore their topics beyond what they already know. Find explanations for questions that they may have and elaborate these findings in their final submissions to their teachers for evaluation. Integrated is a vital learning experience giving the children research and presentation skills that will take them into High School and beyond. It is also a fantastic opportunity to develop creative skills that go beyond just presenting a project on paper. It is encouraged that the children utilize their technical skills and present work electronically via their USB and software available at school and home.
Art

Every fortnight the children will have an art lesson with Mrs Graham. The art program will cover the following:

- Portraits
- Using lines to create pictures
- Landscapes
- Exploring the colour wheel
- Using colour techniques
- Art vocabulary
- Famous Artist Research

It is hoped that we will give the children a good grounding in exploring their creative side by giving them the confidence to use art concepts and utilise art tools to produce works of art that they are pleased to present to our whole school community. We also have art and craft lesson’s that are run during lunch time by Mrs Stephanie Wisdom a volunteer parent. If any parent would like to help with the sewing and craft during these lunchtime sessions please see Mrs Graham and I will pass on your willingness to participate.
Music

Music is covered in many areas of the Senior Primary Curriculum. We encourage all the children to utilise Music in their Integrated and Writers Workshop presentations. We also prepare and present dance and music items for our talent quest in term three. Children are also encouraged to try out for our Senior Rock Band. The school also offers Guitar and keyboard Tuition as an extra to the normal Music curriculum. Applications and the fee structure for these guitar and keyboard lessons are available from our front reception. We also have a school choir. This is taught by Mrs Harrison starting in term two when Choir will commence and children are asked to try out in voice trials.

Edward De Bono
Multiple Intelligences
Research Project

Southern Cross Primary is one of ten schools in Australia to be selected to participate in this very exciting research project. Children will be exploring various styles of learning and thinking that will help develop their thinking and learning skills. This project is to run for four years, which will see the De Bono philosophy of learning to think (Growing your Brain) extended from our early years through to senior primary. Please read our weekly school newsletter as well as visit our website to keep up with the project and its development within our school.
**Phys Ed**

This year Mr Thompson will be taking the senior primary children for their physical and health education. He will also be in charge of our participation in Interschool Sports, which starts in term two and runs through to the end of term three. Please ensure that on Fridays and our timetabled Phys Ed days that your child wears appropriate footwear and clothing to participate fully in these important sessions. Mr Thompson will also be making available participation in the various district sports days. Notices for these events will be sent home to participating children for permission to attend these regular events covering swimming, athletics and cross-country.

**ICT**

Mr Thompson will be also be taking the children for their ICT lessons this year. Each class will have an hour session where they will be taught skills using the various media and programs available at school. They will also be made aware of computer etiquette and safe use of the internet. It is expected that children will be appropriately supervised at home when they use the internet for homework or accessing the various social media's. It is not the schools responsibility to solve social issues that arise when children use the internet and social media inappropriately at home.
Tribes
Better Buddies

Our tribes program has been running with great success for four years throughout our school. It is also now extending out into our full school community. Its main focus is to encourage students, teachers and parents to work collaboratively as a community to help and support each other. It is a program that encourages tolerance and an understanding of how to solve problems that arise in the classroom and outside in the playground.

There are four agreements (rules) that everyone in the school should apply when dealing with each other. They are:

- We must mutually respect each other
- We must always listen attentively
- We must never use put downs
- We always have the right to participate or pass

Tribes is also part of our leadership program, and tribes sessions will begin every fourth Friday during the last hour in term two through to the end of term three. Tribes leaders will run various activities to encourage our community spirit during these afternoons.

This year we have also decided to incorporate another program to complement our Tribes philosophy. It also encourages good relations and gives children skills to help with bullying. This program has been developed by the Alannah and Madeline Foundation and is called the Better Buddies Program. To find out more about this program please visit the Better Buddies Website.
Student Leadership

Southern Cross is very proud of its provision of opportunities for the children in senior primary to participate in the various levels of student leadership that we offer. We encourage all the children in both grade five and six to be involved in taking on roles that will give them experience in taking responsibility for leading a group or activity. Leadership roles in Senior Primary are:

- School Captain
- House Captain
- Tribes and Better Buddies Leaders
- Class Captain and Vice-Class Captains
- Monitors

Homework

Homework for grade five and six involves the children working on their various Integrated and Writers Workshop projects as well as a weekly maths sheet. It is expected that all children will complete 45 minutes to an hour of homework five nights a week. Working longer than this is not encouraged. Children must have a balanced work and play ethic, which should encourage a healthy lifestyle that allows them to develop both socially and academically.

Homework will have due dates for the Integrated and Writers workshops. The maths sheets will be handed out on Friday and due back on the following Thursday. Children will be expected to meet their homework commitments and non-delivery will mean that work will have to be completed at school during times set aside outside the normal timetable.
French

Our LOTE at Southern Cross is French and this is taken by Mr Altube. The main focus of these lessons is to give the children a knowledge of the spoken language and correct pronunciation. One hour a week is allocated to this area.

Mindful Meditation

With the enormous stresses of life that the children must become accustomed to Southern Cross has introduced a program designed by Janet Etty-Leal (www.mediationcapsules.com) to help them develop life-skills to deal with the problems that they may confront. Mindfulness, is a way of relieving stress, and learning how to recognise and manage our emotions better. We devote one planned half hour session a week as well as impromptu sessions as they are required. Please visit Janet’s website or see Mrs Graham if you require further information about this innovation at our school.

School Camp

This year the school camp will be at Mount Morton at Belgrave South. We have had a previous camp here and it was one of our most successful. We were impressed with the facilities and catering, but more important their safe environment. It is a very professionally run camp and at all times your children are supervised by both Southern Cross Staff and the Staff of Mount Morton.

The dates for the camp are:

Monday 27th of August to Wednesday 29th August.
As you can see it is a three day camp. The current expected cost of the camp is $180 per child. This includes accommodation, six main meals, two morning teas, three afternoon teas and the bus to and from the camp.

The school has arrange for a payment plan so that you can start now to pay off the cost of this camp, if you have EMA available you are also able to use it to pay off all or part of the camp. Notices for your participation in the 2012 camp will be sent out tomorrow. Please do not hesitate to discuss any concerns with your class teacher.

**Good Routines and Habits**

It is always good to develop good routines and habits early. By the time your child has reached Senior Primary it is hoped that they have already developed many of the good habits and routines that will take them successfully into High School. Below are listed several of them that you can help them with:

- **Good Diet.** Eating a healthy and balanced diet has been proven to give children an advantage with their learning.

- **Having a good night’s sleep.** It is also a known fact that children of this age need a minimum of eight hours sleep each night to function well the next day.

- **A developed Homework and reading routine.** Every child in Senior Primary is expected to complete their homework on time. Therefore a nightly homework area and routine is vital.

- **Responsibility for making sure that they have their required books and pencil case at school each day.** This includes their diary which must be maintained with important dates and signed by a parent or guardian every Thursday night, because it is handed to the teacher every Friday.

- **Responsibility for their clothing.** It should be named!